

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for tracing program flow within an application server comprising:
 - identifying one or more application components to be traced within the application server;
 - modifying bytecode associated with the one or more application components, the modifications associated with a particular set of methods of the application components;
 - executing the application components;
 - registering method invocations and method-related information associated with the particular set of methods; and
 - translating method-related information to a format employed within a distributed statistical records (“DSR”) system and forwarding the translated information to the DSR system.
2. The method as in claim 1 wherein one the application components are Java application components.
3. The method as in claim 1 wherein the application server is a Java 2 Enterprise Edition (“J2EE”) server and the application components are J2EE services within the J2EE server.

4. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
storing the method-related information within a plurality of DSR files within the DSR system.

5. The method as in claim 1 wherein modifying the bytecode comprises:
inserting a start method invocation prior to each method of the set of methods and inserting an end method invocation following each method of the set of methods.

6. The method as in claim 1 wherein the method-related information comprises an amount of time it takes for each method within the set of methods to complete.

7. The method as in claim 1 wherein the method-related information comprises a number times that each method of the set of methods is executed.

8. The method as in claim 1 wherein the method-related information comprises input and/or output parameters associated with each method of the set of methods.

9. The method as in claim 1 wherein the particular set of methods comprise entry and/or exit methods for each application component, the entry/exit methods representing entry and exit points to and from each component.

10. The method as in claim 9 wherein the entry/exit methods are entry and exit points between an application component and an external system.

11. The method as in claim 9 wherein the entry/exit method are entry and exit points between an application component and a database containing data usable by the application component.

12. A system for tracing program flow within an application server comprising:

- a distributed statistical records ("DSR") module to identify one or more application components within the application server to be traced;

- a bytecode modification module to responsively modify the bytecode of the one or more application components, the modifications associated with a particular set of methods of the application components;

- a dispatch unit to register method invocations and method-related information associated with the particular set of methods and to provide the method-related information to the DSR module; and

- a DSR interface module to translate the method-related information to a format employed within a distributed statistical records ("DSR") system and forward the translated information to the DSR system.

13. The system as in claim 12 wherein one the application components are Java application components.

14. The system as in claim 12 wherein the application server is a Java 2 Enterprise Edition ("J2EE") server and the application components are J2EE services within the J2EE server.

15. The system as in claim 12 further comprising:
a DSR storage server to store the method-related information within a plurality of DSR files within the DSR system.
16. The system as in claim 12 wherein, to modify the bytecode, the bytecode modification module inserts a start method invocation prior to each method of the set of methods and inserting an end method invocation following each method of the set of methods.
17. The system as in claim 12 wherein the method-related information comprises an amount of time it takes for each method within the set of methods to complete.
18. The system as in claim 12 wherein the method-related information comprises a number times that each method of the set of methods is executed.
19. The system as in claim 12 wherein the method-related information comprises input and/or output parameters associated with each method of the set of methods.
20. The system as in claim 12 wherein the particular set of methods comprise entry and/or exit methods for each application component, the entry/exit methods representing entry and exit points to and from each component.

21. The system as in claim 20 wherein the entry/exit methods are entry and exit points between an application component and an external system.

22. The system as in claim 20 wherein the entry/exit method are entry and exit points between an application component and a database containing data usable by the application component.

23. An article of manufacture including program code which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform the operations of:

- identifying one or more application components to be traced within the application server;
- modifying bytecode associated with the one or more application components, the modifications associated with a particular set of methods of the application components;
- executing the application components;
- registering method invocations and method-related information associated with the particular set of methods; and
- translating method-related information to a format employed within a distributed statistical records ("DSR") system and forwarding the translated information to the DSR system.

24. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein one the application components are Java application components.

25. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein the application server is a Java 2 Enterprise Edition ("J2EE") server and the application components are J2EE services within the J2EE server.

26. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 comprising additional program code to cause the machine to perform the operations of:
storing the method-related information within a plurality of DSR files within the DSR system.

27. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein modifying the bytecode comprises:
inserting a start method invocation prior to each method of the set of methods and inserting an end method invocation following each method of the set of methods.

28. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein the method-related information comprises an amount of time it takes for each method within the set of methods to complete.

29. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein the method-related information comprises a number times that each method of the set of methods is executed.

30. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein the method-related information comprises input and/or output parameters associated with each method of the set of methods.

31. The article of manufacture as in claim 23 wherein the particular set of methods comprise entry and/or exit methods for each application component,

the entry/exit methods representing entry and exit points to and from each component.

32. The article of manufacture as in claim 31 wherein the entry/exit methods are entry and exit points between an application component and an external system.

33. The article of manufacture as in claim 31 wherein the entry/exit method are entry and exit points between an application component and a database containing data usable by the application component.